

Recap of the 2007 Memorial Candlelight Service

The Brevard Chapter of The Compassionate Friends held their annual Candlelight Service of Remembrance on Sunday, December 9, 2007, at The Lutheran Church of the Good Shepherd in Brevard. The Church offered our chapter the main sanctuary.

Our Candle Lighting Services was beautiful and we want to thank everyone who participated in making it such a memorable event. We were so sorry that Caroline, Steve, and Stephanie Anne Smith were not able to attend because of Caroline's accident.

Linda Freed greeted everyone. Everyone who attended the candlelight service also receive a small framed picture frame with the poem "**Christmas in Heaven**" as well as a "**White Butterfly**" given by Caroline & Steve Smith for the parents, grandparents and siblings to place on their Christmas tree, as well a program.

About 30 family members and friends attended the service. A pre-service music service was held in the main sanctuary. Marie Bowker and Karen Anderson honored us again with their beautiful music and voice, and we are so grateful for that! Marisol Gollnick invited everyone into the sanctuary, to begin the program. Our prayer leader was Pastor Richard Handschin. There were several readings by Marisol Gollnick and Sharon Palan. Each parent came up to light their candle and if they wished said something about their child. The song "**Light a Candle**" was played by Paul Alexander.

The table was decorated with a center pillar candle, which was donated to our chapter by Martha Clark. This pillar candle was given to her by Father Simon the founder of The Compassionate Friends during a national conference in Charlotte, NC. The table also had two angels and butterflies on it, as well as all the beautiful pictures of our children and their mementos.



After the service, people were again invited to the for fellowship and more refreshments. The yummy goodies were provided by all the parents.

I encourage everyone who was not able to attend to make plans to attend next year's candle lighting service (December 14, 2008). It is a wonderful time where we can remember and honor our children in a very special way.

Pictures were taken by Roger Freed.